

REMARKS

Claims 33 to 50 will be added and claims 1-32 will be pending upon Patent Office entry of this Preliminary Amendment. It is respectfully submitted that because no Office Action has yet been received in this application, there is no duty under MPEP 714.04 to point out novelty over references cited and/or objections made heretofore in this application.

Also, a Fee Transmittal Form is concurrently submitted herewith under separate cover, together with a response to Notice to File Missing Parts. It is noted that government fees for three independent claims and 20 claims in total were submitted at the time of filing this application on September 15, 2003. Accordingly, additional government fees for 25 new claims and 7 additional independent claims are being submitted herewith. As outlined in the Fee Transmittal Form, it is the applicant's understanding that the additional fees are $30 \times \$9.00$ (U.S.) = \$270.00 (U.S.) for the total number of claims and $3 \times \$43.00$ (U.S.) = \$129.00 (U.S.) for the new independent claims for a total of \$399.00 (U.S.). The applicant is claiming small entity fee status.

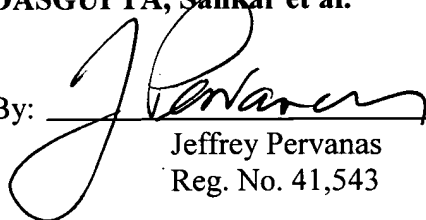
The Office has been authorized under separate cover to charge the additional government fees for new claims 33 to 50 to our deposit account number 18-1350 as well as the filing fee and the late fee, under an order number corresponding to attorney docket number P16802. The Office is also authorized to charge any additional government fees as may be required to effect filing of this preliminary amendment to deposit account number 18-1350, under an order number corresponding to attorney docket number P63902.

Favourable consideration and disposition is respectfully requested.

Respectfully requested

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By: _____



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JP/cbo
Encl.
Ret. Ack. Card